

In – Fur – Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 14, Number 1

Our Motto: All The News We Get, We Print!

Spring, 2003

"It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood..."

Yee-Haw! Riding up fast is ConFurence 2003, folks! The great granddaddy of furry conventions returns to Burbank, California, with as much fun than furry fans have ever had in one place. And we're here to tell you all about it – But first, here's some more of what we're known best for: Furry news! [Rod O'Riley, your Ed-Otter]



Image c. 2002, Studio Ghibli

And the winner is... *Spirited Away*! That was the word at the 30th Annual Annie Awards, presented in Glendale this last February by the International Animated Film Society (ASIFA-Hollywood). *Spirited* (the English language version of the film by Hayao Miyazaki, released by Disney) took the honor as Best Animated Feature Film of 2002. The night was big for *Spirited* (it won for writing, direction, and score also), and also for *Spirit, Stallion of the Cimarron* from Dreamworks (which won in several technical categories). In TV animation, the big winners of the night were *The Simpsons* and *Samurai Jack* (several categories each). Daveigh Chase won an Annie for her

voice acting as Lilo in Disney's *Lilo & Stitch*. [She was also a lead voice in *Spirited Away*, of course.] Special Lifetime Achievement Awards were passed out to: Lou Scheimer (one of the founders of Filmation Studios), Gene Hazelton (from Disney, Warner Brothers, and Hanna-Barbera – Among other things, he drew the *Yogi Bear* and *Flintstones* comic strips for years), Floyd Norman (who's been a story man, comic strip artist, and writer for Disney, Hanna Barbera, and Pixar!), and The Sherman Brothers (who wrote songs for almost every Disney project from *Sleeping Beauty* up to the 1980's. Hum a Disney tune – chances are they wrote it!).

In late February, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences announced the nominees for "Best Animated Feature Film of 2002". Interestingly, with one exception they're the same five nominees (five this year!) as were up for the Annie Awards: *Lilo & Stitch* and *Treasure Planet* (both from Disney), *Spirited Away* (distributed in English by Disney), *Ice Age* (from Fox), and *Spirit – Stallion of the Cimarron* (from Dreamworks).

Animation fans should take a look at a new fan web site, <http://pathea.com>. It features lots of background information and images from current and future cartoon feature releases from Disney, Dreamworks, Studio Ghibli, and others.

Stumbled across on the web: *D-War*, a new live-action feature film from South Korea. Featuring lots and lots of CGI, this fantasy/adventure film looks like *Reign of Fire* set in medieval Asia! Word is that it's going to be released in English, but no word yet on a release date for video or DVD. Check out the *D-Wars* web site at <http://www.dragonwarsmovie.com> to see all the various scaly big and little in the film.



Image c. Pixar Animation 2003

Scalies of another sort... May 30th is the official release date for *Finding Nemo*, the latest CGI collaboration between Pixar and Walt Disney Pictures. The film is directed by **Andrew Stanton**, who was co-director on *A Bug's Life*. In case you haven't "caught it" yet: The story involves a clown fish named Marlin (**Albert Brooks**) who, with the help of his very dippy friend Dory (**Ellen DeGeneres**) goes on a quest to find his son, who's been captured and put in an office aquarium in Sydney, Australia. Among other things, *Nemo* features a tank full of neurotic fish, California-surfer-dude sea turtles, and a club for vegetarian sharks. Can't lose.

Coming soon to an IMAX theater near you is *SOS Planet*, a new documentary from nWAVE Pictures. Documenting the destruction of our planet's rainforests, fisheries, and other natural resources, the film showcases CGI animals – including polar bears, sea turtles, gibbon, and others – who assist **Walter Cronkite** in telling the story.

Found at www.awn.com: "C21 Media reports that Jim Henson Pictures' *Time Dogs* will be the first project for The Shop Productions, a new Canadian animation company set up by former Mainframe Entertainment president and CEO **Ian Pearson**. The CG animated comedy was written by **Christopher Leone** and **Laura Harkcom** and stars Zack and Dingo, a real dog and a robot dog. The two friends must travel through time to save their master, inventor Dr Quirk, and all dogs from a life of slavery under the Grand High Dogcatcher. *Time Dogs* will be the first foray in CG animated features for the Henson Co., which has begun script revisions and animation tests with Vancouver-based The Shop". Held in early 2003, the MIPCOM convention in

France was once again a huge showcase for new TV shows from around the globe looking for international distribution. Among the items of fury interest: *Gene-Fusion* (based on the comic from Beckett Entertainment, previously noted in these very pages) follows the animated adventures of a wild wrestling show that features genetically-created monsters. *Tinguaro, The Sun Lizards* (from Comet Entertainment, Inc.) is a CGI show about a society of talking lizards forced into battle by invading scorpions and locusts. The British firm Entertainment Rights has several shows to offer, including *Basil Brush* (a long-running series about a cheeky bucktoothed fox puppet), *Hamilton Mattress* (a half-hour special in stop-motion animation, featuring the story of an aardvark who excels at drumming), and *Merlin the Magical Puppy* (also stop-motion, about a young dog who's magic collar grants his wishes). The Chinese animation house Colorland has produced its first original series, *Oh Max*, which combines CGI and traditional 2D animation to tell the story of a dog with an over-active imagination. Meanwhile Nelvana is offering *Little Critter*, a cartoon series based on the popular children's books created by **Mercer Mayer**.

Also from www.awn.com: "Mike Young Productions has announced that **Mel Brooks** (*The Producers*, etc.) will voice the role of Wiley the Sheep in the new half-hour series *Jakers! The Adventures of Piggley Winks*, based on original stories by Irish writer **Denise Fitzpatrick**. The 26 episode series is aimed at children aged 4-8. It centers around Grandpa Piggley's tales of childhood shenanigans in the Irish farmland of his youth. It is set to debut on an Irish Gaelic-language channel in 2003".

Sykó Kitty (from Honest Entertainment) is a new cartoon series about a cute, fluffy cartoon cat – who has a dark and dangerous hidden alter-ego. The show was created by **Joanna Ferrone**, one of the folks behind *Angela Anaconda*.

Silverwing, based on the popular book series by **Kenneth Oppel** about a teenaged, adventurous bat, is currently in production in Canada for a new TV series from Bardel Entertainment. It's set to premiere in the fall of 2003. Check out the web site at www.silverwing.tv.

Currently running on HBO is *Stuart Little*, a traditional 2D cartoon show based on the CGI *Stuart Little* movies. It's created by Sony Pictures' animation house, which also does *Dragon Tales*.

Over at Dreamworks, *Sharkslayer* is currently in production. The new CGI feature film tells the story of a fish named Oscar who finds himself up against the evil shark Mafia. The gangster spoof features a voice cast of well-known names like **Will Smith** (Oscar), **Robert DeNiro**, **Renee Zellweger**, **Angelina Jolie**, **Jack Black**, **Martin Scorsese** (yes, the director), **Peter Falk**, and some of the stars of *The Sopranos*. Whew! The film is scheduled to premiere in November 2004.

Other new CGI of note: Paramount is currently developing a *Mighty Mouse* feature film, set to be directed by none other than **John Woo**. In perhaps a completely different vein, Universal and Imagine Entertainment have pegged some of the team who created *Monsters, Inc.* to help with the writing and directing of a new *Curious George* feature film.

Avi Melman has returned with a new company, Cybergraphix Animation, and at least two projects that fury fans should sit up and take notice of: *Detroit Docona*, about a teenage raccoon who finds himself in possession of super-powered armor and a vital mission, and *Myth House*, about a school for mythical beasties of all sorts. Find more on the web at www.cybergraphix-anim.com.

Tony Bancroft, long-time Disney animator (*Pumbaa*) and director (*Mulan*) has a new independent animation firm called Toonacious Entertainment, with an emphasis on family cartoons for the Christian market (mostly). Their new video series is called *Lenny & Sid*, two furry kids – a shy rabbit and a very NOT shy mouse – living in small town America. The first episode is called *Love Thy Neighbor*, about getting along with people who are different from you – something Lenny really needs to learn when Sid moves next door! Each DVD also features a short cartoon. Available now at Christian book stores, but Toonacious hopes to expand into regular markets – and even TV – real soon now. Check out www.toonacious.com.

Not-sure-what-to-say Department: *Charlotte's Web* 2. You read that right, uh huh. This time it's Paramount Home Video rather than Hanna Barbera that takes us to the Zuckerman farm, where Wilbur the pig has more adventures with Charlotte the spider's three daughters and a new friend, a lamb named Cardigan. It's available on DVD March 18th. (Strange observation: Charlotte's three daughters look mysteriously like the *Powerpuff Girls*...)

Colorland Animation (see *Oh Max*, above) and Tundra Productions, Inc. are currently working together to produce *In Search of Santa*, a CGI feature film they're hoping to release next Christmas. It features a group of anthro sea birds and sea mammals who go... well, you can guess!

Word is out that *Olivia*, the popular children's book series by **Ian Falconer** about a talented young pig, has been licensed for a new animated TV series. No word yet on who's making it though.

Two new anime series of note. From [Flayrah.com](http://www.Flayrah.com): Produced by BONES (*Cowboy Bebop*) the twenty-six episode television series *Wolf's Rain* has received many positive reviews, and the story's synopsis easily points out its interest for anthro fans: "...a wounded wolf named Kiba is one of the only survivors of a species once thought to be extinct. He and other wolves have the ability to appear human to the normal people of the world." The official web site is at www.wolfs-rain.com. Also keep your eyes out for the show called *Fruits Basket*. Here's the idea – A young girl discovers a family with a bizarre curse: When one of them hugs a member of the opposite gender, they turn into an animal from the Chinese Zodiac! Episodes are available on DVD.

Vintage fury cartoons: Most readers won't remember *Courageous Cat and Minute Mouse*, but your humble ed-otter sure does! Created by none other than *Batman* originator **Bob Kane**, this obvious spoof of the caped crusader follows the adventures of the original Fury Foes of Felony. All 130 episodes have been restored, and now they're available in one massive DVD collection from A&E Home Video that runs over 270 minutes!

More stuff from the youth of the 70's... **Sid & Marty Krofft** present the new *H.R. Pufnstuf* DVD collection. Do you even need to ask what it's about? Young Jimmy and his friend, a magic talking flute, find themselves trapped on Living Island – where trees and animals talk – by an evil (and rather goofy) witch who has her eyes on the flute. Fortunately, Jimmy has the help of a (very round) dragon to help in foiling her plans! All 17 of the original full-color episodes are here, digitally remastered.

Everyone's favorite ogre-and-talking-donkey team returns as the new full-color *Shrek* comic series premieres from Dark Horse. It's written by comic veteran **Mark Evanier** and illustrated by **Bachs** and **Fernandez**. In the first issue: Happy ogre couple Shrek and Fiona and their friends, donkey and dragon, find themselves haunted by the vengeful ghost of Lord Farquaad.

Hey, you like pretty girls? How about a dead one or two? From **Richard Moore** and NBM Publishing comes the *Boneyard Special Swimsuit Issue #1*, in black & white of course. Curvy poses of Abbey the vampire, Nessie the scaly sea-creature, and others.

Furs looking for something harder should check out the new black & white comic *Rare Breed* from Wages of Sin. This new anthology features "all hetero hard-core action" from the likes of **Jeremy Mullins**, **Ooka Fufuri**, **Brian McPherson**, **GNAW**, **Max Blackrabbit**, **Dark Leopard**, and **Jeremy Bernal**. You can find it at comic stores, or look for it on the Web at www.rabbitvalley.com or www.shandafantasyarts.net.

Speaking of Shanda, the SFA folks have their own adult anthology out now, *Wild Orchids*. The premiere issue features erotic works by **Mike Curtis** and **Dennis Clark**, **Carla Speed McNeil**, **Sarah Wheeler**, **Brock Hoagland**, **Kris Updike**, and **Steve Corbett**. Also from SFA, *New Horizons #15* presents a cover feature called "The Fury Con" by **Mike Curtis** and **Dann Phillips**. Meanwhile, SFA Spotlight #16 brings us *Star Quack* by **Mike Jones Jr.** – a black & white parody of *Star Trek*, featuring the adventures of the starship Enterfowl.

Radio Comix brings us *Furlough's Finest Volume One*, "reprinting the very best from the early years of *Furlough*", featuring black & white work by **Joe Rosales**, **Brian Sutton**, **Kurt Wilcken**, **Phil Morrissey**, **Ted Sheppard**, and others. It's all wrapped up in a brand new full-color cover by **Heather Bruton**. Also from Radio, look for the collected version of *James Hardiman's The Ups and Downs [of Interspecies Sex]*, reprinted from the pages of *Genus* and elsewhere. And speaking of *Genus*, very soon now that famous adult fury title will celebrate its 10-year anniversary with the release of issue #60, featuring works by **Brian Sutton**, **DAQ**, **Kjartan Arnorsson**, **Kyle Hutchings**, and **Eddie Perkins**.

MU Press brings us *Hugo #1* in black & white. "Milton Knight's poor benighted [and fury] court jester returns with all new stories! Life in the Middle Ages is never easy, but all the more so for Hugo, besotted with the fickle Princess Trish. Animator Knight (*Cool World*) tells tales of love and lust, trickery & treachery, malice & mayhem!" Also out from MU is *Wild #1*, a new black & white erotic anthology with works by **Edd Vick**, **Paul Kidd**, **Mark Moore**, **Steve Corbett**, and **Sara Wheeler**.

Herobear & The Kid creator **Mike Kunkel** has returned with a new hardcover collected edition of his famous series. This 230-page book collects the five original issues of the black & white series, plus 80 pages of additional sketches and lots of guest artists doing their version of the human/ursine duo. It's available at your local comic book shop, or look for more information on the web at www.theastonishfactory.com. Other new HB & TK products include the "red cape" T-shirt – featuring the bear, of course – and the new wall poster "Impressions" by **Humberto Ramos**.

From Brass Ball Comics comes *Bubba the Redneck Werewolf #1*. [We don't make these things up folks, I swear!] In his first black & white issue (brought to you by **Hyman**, **Graham**, **Surface**, **Hayatt**, and **Hebbe**), Bubba "goes to a local comic con and finds himself in the midst of a struggle between good sense and bad taste". You heard it here, furs.

All three issues of **Jill Thompson's Scary Godmother** covering the "Wild About Harry" story arc are now available as a collected package from Sirius Entertainment. Harry the werewolf has his problems... the witch Scary Godmother, well, she's got Harry! In black & white.

From **James Kochalka** and Top Shelf Productions comes *Monkey vs. Robot & the Crystal of Power*, a sequel to the popular comic *Monkey vs. Robot*. Seeking to repair their mother computer, the robots dig up a powerful crystal from an ancient burial ground – and incite the monkey's wrath! 144 pages in black & white.

New anime in graphic novel and DVD: *Alien Nine*, from CPM Manga. Young 6th-grader Yuri has a problem: She's been elected the one to help rid her school of a swarm of invading aliens, and she has to wear a living, symbiotic frog-helmet in order to do it! The black & white manga is brought to you by **Hitoshi Tomizawa**.

Word is out that all eight issues of *Associated Student Bodies* will finally be released in a trade paperback collection this April. [If you didn't know, ASB is a very well known and respected black & white comic about the lives of gay fury students at a big university.] Of course some additional artwork and sketches will be included in the mix as well. Keep your eyes on www.rabbitvalley.com for more info on a release date.

After "many months of planning, hard work, and tricky financial planning", *Fumation* magazine #3 is finally available. It will shipping from Rabbit Valley, Dragon Magic, and United Publications in early April. Look up www.fumation.com for more.

Coming soon from All About Comics is a new comedy black & white series, *Licensable Bear™*. Yes that's right: He's cute, he's fuzzy, and he wants to be on t-shirts and sell products for you! In his first adventure, LB travels to Japan – where he knows they're addicted to cuteness! It's brought to you by the mind of **Nat Gertler** and the pencils of **Mark Lewis** and **Rusty Haller**.

Fans of *Inu Yasha* (and the show's fox-eared star) should check out *The Art of Inu-Yasha*, in trade paperback from Viz Comics. It offers color and black & white pictures by **Rumiko Takahashi** and other animators from the series.

Available now from Titan Books is *Wallace and Gromit: Catch of the Day*, a new soft-cover picture book by **Ian Rimmer** and **Jimmy Hansen**. Wallace faces the treachery and sneakiness of his archrival at a fishing competition.

The Ultimate Dragon is a new anthology of fantasy stories, featuring the likes of **S.P. Somtow**, **Tanith Lee**, **Ursula K. Leguin**, **Harlan Ellison**, and **Robert Silverberg**. Edited by **Byron Preiss**, it's coming this May from I Books.

Difficult to Explain: In Me Own Words, the Autobiography of Bigfoot. Author **Graham Roumieu** portrays the famous hairy creature as simple, ordinary creature with eating disorders and deep philosophical quandaries. In hardcover, from Manic D Press.

A new non-fiction book of interest to fury and comic book fans: *The Pirates and the Mouse – Disney's War Against the Underground* by **Bob Levin**. In the 1960's, underground cartoonist **Dan O'Neill** brought together a group of like-minded artists to create the *Air Pirates Funnies*, a series of comics that featured well-known Disney characters in very UN-Disney-like situations. The resulting lawsuit from Disney raged for 10 years, and Levin's book chronicles the amazing twists and turns. It's available soon from Fantagraphics.

Also from Fantagraphics: *Quimby the Mouse* by **Chris Ware**. Using a combo of old-fashioned animation imagery and 1920's-style advertising graphics, Ware's book spins the tale of Quimby, a mouse (usually seen in silhouette) going through life's big tragedies and little triumphs.

William Hanna's autobiography *A Cast of Friends* (written with **Tom Ito**) is available again from Tyron Publishing, now at a reduced price.

In his new book *Makin' Toons – Inside the Most Popular Animated TV Shows and Movies*, **Allan Neuwirth** interviews leading cartoon creators (like

Gabor Csupo and *Shrek* director **Andrew Adamson**) about the finer points of making animated cartoons successful. It comes out this April in trade paperback from Allworth Press.

Meet Mr. Product by **Warren Dotz** and **Masud Husain** (available this April from Chronicle Books) is a gallery of over 500 spokescharacters from the past up through today, including everything from Mr. Peanut to the Jolly Green Giant. Sure to be a good selection of fury characters here, too!

The late **Dr. Osamu Tezuka**'s instructional series *The Tezuka School of Animation* is available again in paperback, with English text. In Volume 2, Dr. Tezuka teaches you techniques for drawing and animating some of his most famous animal characters, like *Kimba the White Lion*.

Obituaries

By now word has gotten around that **Fred Rogers**, known as **Mr. Rogers** to millions of kids (and used-to-be-kids) around the world, passed away in February. He was 74. An ordained minister and renowned puppeteer, Rogers made his mark when he moved his TV show to WQED in 1968 – and created *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood*. His super-calm style and old-fashioned clothing were easy to imitate, and of course he was the butt of a million jokes from comedians through the years – some of whom had grown up with him. But your friendly ed-otter has many fond memories of Curious X the Owl, the Purple Panda, Daniel Striped Tiger, and other fury characters who made their way through the show over the years. He will be missed.

From: Paul Kidd

[Discussing his brand-new novel, and other projects – Ye Ed-Otter]

The novel is called *Fey* – and it's a total scream. Rife with furries, giant salamanders, dark elves and fanboys galore. The book is a dark comedy at times - a savage poke at the evils of multinational publishers and the futility of pandering to their genrefication of literature. The cover quote is "Finally - a book that actually ASKS for trouble". So it has a message, and is 'fan friendly'. United Publications UK will be doing a UK press run of the

book, and should have it available at cons.

Check <http://www.warpedtime.com/squeee> for other details! (Hell, check out the whole website - it rocks!) Meanwhile - supplemental cards for the *Tank Vixens* card game are starting to come in. They'll be out in time for the mid-year cons. *Tank Vixens* plushies (a meter tall!), hand puppets and statuettes are now becoming available. The *Tank Vixens* short film is also hitting the film festival circuit later this year.

Furry Stuff has *ConFurence Stuff!* The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurences 0 – 10) is now at the Furry Stuff web portal. Three of our popular T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "The Furry World" (black and white on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, we still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, the *ConFurence Eight – Music and Mirth* video, and now the special *ConFurence Five & Six* combination video too! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site (www.furrystuff.com), or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

What, you're looking for NEW ConFurence Stuff? The **ConFurence Group**, home of ConFurence 2003, has its own stash of stuff they want you to know about too! Still available are the full-color ConFurence 2002 T-shirt designs by **David Bliss** (Sydney the detective's face in white/black or black/white) and CF 2003 Guest of Honor **Ed Luena** (skunk with gun, in purple or brown) both for \$12.00 each, and the new ConFurence Group™ paw-logo T-shirt for \$12.00 also. (Some larger sizes are \$15.00.) Plus, remember to get your ConFurence lapel pins! That's right, the paw-globe logo can be right on your neck for only \$8.00. If you visit their web site at www.confurence.net, you can order this cool stuff plus ConFurence 2003 memberships, Cabaret tickets, and more, online! For more information about new ConFurence merchandise, write them at: The ConFurence Group, P.O. Box 84721, San

Diego, CA 92138-4721.

And Now, just what you've been wanting to hear: How do I keep up my Subscription to *In-Fur-Nation*? We're glad you asked! After nearly a decade of functioning as a newsletter for ConFurence, and a fury newsletter second, *In-Fur-Nation* is expanding its role in the fury community by presenting you the whole length and breadth of fury: Not just comic books, animated films, picture books, and the rest, but the growing number of fury-themed fan conventions popping up around the continent, and around the world! So now, a subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even *more* of what fury fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! Brought right to your doorstep three times a year (spring, summer, and fall). And what's it gonna cost you? A whopping \$5.00 for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News section, write to us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to its full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 fury fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for free!

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite fury titles, or that you wish would carry

more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of *In-Fur-Nation* each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! As an alternate: Know of any good comic review zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation wants Reporters! Actually, interviewers... as a new feature, we're going to present profiles of fury creators and fury-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to funny animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] Send hard copies to the ConFurence address, or, you can e-mail your submission to ed-otter **Rod O'Riley** at mink@firstlight.net.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in *In-Fur-Nation* come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

(Many thanks to the people who helped provide information for this issue, both by mail and via Internet! Also, our appreciation to *Previews* magazine, Fred Patten, Paul Kidd, and all the folks who sent us information!

"...Would you be mine? Could you be mine?"
[Fred "Mr." Rogers, 1928—2003. RIP]



Furry (and sorta-furry) Conventions Coming Your Way This Summer!

Rocket City Fur Meet

High Tech meets Furry Madness! May 23—25, 2003, in Huntsville, Alabama. The Guest of Honor for this brand-new furry gathering is *Kevin & Kell* creator **Bill Holbrook**. It takes place at the Radisson Suites Hotel (6000 South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, AL). Room Rates are \$70.00 per night for up to six in a room. Attending Memberships are \$25.00, with Supporting Memberships and Sponsorships available too. The Meet's web site is at <http://narf.wereanimal.net>. Or you can write to them care of: Ken Barnes, Attn: RCFM, 5041 Galaxy Way #210, Huntsville, AL 35816.

CACE

The Canadian Anthro & Cartooning Expo

Friday, May 30 to Sunday June 1, 2003 at the Chimo Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

The Canadian Anthro & Cartooning Expo is a small (but rapidly-growing!) and friendly second-year convention which is: * Tightly focused on art and writing in the genre of anthropomorphics (furry), as well as comic, cartooning, and illustration art in general * Held in a cozy, friendly setting that's ideal for chatting with old friends or making new ones * Offering a strong selection of classes, instruction, and panels (some of which are taught by professional instructors and artists) * Holding fun social events and activities for everyone * Conveniently located across from a major shopping centre with many other shops and restaurants nearby * Economical for the budget-minded con-goer. CACE will once again be hosting a great group of guests with a good mix of veterans and newcomers. This years Guests of Honor include **Chris Goodwin** (illustrator for

the *Jadeclaw* RPG), **Ted MacKinnon** (author of the *Ironclaw* novel *Scars*) and up-and-coming artists **Amy "Lyosha" Fennell** and **Jennifer "Nalina" Brook**.

The Room Rate at the Chimo Hotel is \$105.00 per night (Canadian dollars). Memberships to CACE are \$30.00 Canadian (\$20.00 U.S.) until May 2, 2003, and \$40.00 Canadian at the door. For more info, their web site is www.c-ace.org. Or send them a letter at C-ACE, 269-1411A Carling Ave., Ottawa, ON, Canada K1Z 1A7.

The Gathering of the Gargoyles 2003

The annual Gathering for fans of Disney's popular TV series *Gargoyles* arrives in the home of the show itself: New York City! The show will be held June 27 — 29, 2003, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, New York. Rooms are \$125.00 per night single/double, \$135.00 for triple, and \$145.00 quad. Confirmed guests include **Greg Weisman** (Series Creator, Writer, Supervising Producer), **Thom Adcox-Hernandez** (voice actor), and **Greg Guler** (character designer).

Memberships are currently is \$50.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children up to the age of 10 (accompanied by an adult) -- but these rates are only good through June 13, 2003! At-the-door, membership is \$65.00. To find out more, write to them at: The Gathering 2003, 3511 Herron Court, San Antonio, TX 78217-3228. Or, check out their web site at <http://gathering.gargoyles-fans.org>.

Anime Expo 2003

Anime Expo, the largest gathering in North America for fans of Japanese animation and comics, returns to Anaheim on July 3 — 6, 2003. Officially hosted by the Anaheim Convention Center, the Expo will also take place at the Anaheim Hilton, Anaheim Marriott, and West Coast Anaheim Hotels.

As usual, Anime Expo features not only a giant dealer's room of anime-related products, but literally dozens of anime industry veterans as guest speakers — Not to mention tons of premier

screenings. It's all yours for \$50.00 (by mail until May 15 or at the door). Lower rates are available for single-day and two-day passes.

For more information, write The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation, 530 Showers Drive, Suite 7 PMB 287, Mountain View, CA 94040. Or, keep in touch with their ever-expanding guest and programming roster by visiting www.anime-expo.org.

Anthrocon 2003

The theme is "Creatures of the Night". The Con is July 18-20, 2003 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Philadelphia, PA.

One of the largest anthropomorphics conventions in the world. All the finer aspects of anthropomorphic, or more commonly, "furry" fandom, are celebrated here. This year their Guests of Honor include **Guy Gilchrist** (creator of the comic strips *Screams* and *Mudpie*) and **Mark Rogers** (creator of the classic furry graphic novel *Samurai Caf*).

Attending Memberships are \$40.00 until June 20, 2003, and Sponsor / Super-Sponsor memberships are available too. Rooms at the Adams Mark Hotel are available for \$99.00 per night.

For More Information: Anthrocon, Inc., P.O. Box 270, Devault, PA 19432. Their e-mail is anthrocon@anthrocon.org, and their Web site is <http://www.anthrocon.org>.

Eurofurence 9

The largest gathering of furries in Europe heads east – Eastern Europe, that is. Eurofurence 9 will be held August 21 – 24, 2003, at Samopse in the Czech Republic (near Prague). The con theme is "Cunning Little Vixens", based on the famous opera by Czech composer Leoš Janáček. The standard Attending Membership is currently 90 EU through the end of April, 105 EU through May, and 120 EU at the door. For more information, prices,

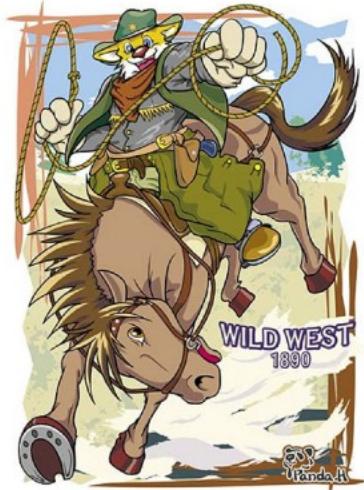
and directions, check out their web site at <http://www.eurofurence.org/EF9>.

Camp Feral 2003

"Welcome to the first, the greatest, the ONLY Fury summer camp!" August 20 – 24, 2003, at the Kinark Outdoor Centre, Ontario, Canada. Registration is currently \$289.00 Canadian (\$184.00 US), with special discounts available for each friend that you bring along to Feral! (Check out the web site for more details.) Contact Feral at their web site (www.campferal.org) for the latest details. You can also send them email at info@campferal.org, or write to: Feral!, Box 47008, Sheridan Mall P.O., Mississauga ON, L5K 1T9, Canada.

Watch this space in our summer issue for more info on Mephit Furmeet (August 29 – September 1, in Memphis, Tennessee), Conifur Northwest (September 26 – 28, in Tacoma, Washington), and The Midwest FurFest (November 21 – 23, in Woodfield, Illinois).

But don't forget: First Off, it's time for ConFurence 2003!



Well howdy, Paw'd-ners!

Our 15th Annual Furry Convention is gonna be the most rootin'-tootin', high-falootin', western-style shin-dig for all you dogies and dog-ettes out there, with a special track of fun programming even for the little varmints attending with their kin-folk.

Be Sure to Giddy-up and join us **April 25 to 27, 2003** at the **Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center in Burbank, Calif-fur-nee!**

Our Native American furry bretheren are also likely to make a showing, even that infamous trickster, the Coyote. Spend time in a pow-wow or find your animal spirit... it's all gonna be a part of this year's fun!

Git out yer cowboy hats and six-shooters (rubber-band and silly-string models only, of course) and mosey on up to the bar at the Ice Cream Saloon, Dance yer tail off at the Dance Hall, browse through the Trading Post and shop from your

favorite anthropomorphic dealers, gawk at all the pretty pikchers in the ArtShow and Auction, or just show up to have a fun reunion with yer fellow fury friends.

ConFurence 2003 will be the first fury convention with a dedicated Party Floor. If you plan to host a party at the Hilton from your hotel room, please contact our Party Maven, Alan Lutton, at partymaven@confurence.net to make sure that your room is booked on the Party Floor.

The Guest List for CF 2003 keeps on growing and getting more interesting all the time! Our **Guests of Honor** include:

- **Theresa Mather** – Professional fantasy artist, painter, and carousel restoration expert!
- **Dark Natasha** – Illustrator with works in comic books (*Genus, Furlough, Anubis – Dark Desires, et al*), portfolios, paintings, sculptures, and many other media.
- **Roy D. Pounds II** – Long-time fury artist, whose illustrations have wound up in *Genus, Furlough*, and many many fanzines.
- **Leslie Fish** – Famous filk singer/songwriter and cat-wrangler.
- **Joe Staton** – Comic book legend (he created *E-Man* in the 1970's) now working on (among many projects) the *Scooby Doo* comic and the story of *Rustle*, an anthropomorphic pine tree!
- **Ruben Avila** – Anthropomorphic sculpture expert and one of the Featured Fans at the very first ConFurence in 1989.
- **Omaha Sternberg** – the originator of the Cabaret Fur le Dance at ConFurence, these days Omaha is a performer, a Mac gaming guru, a software project manager, and a mom!

And that's only the Honored Guests! We have a whole bushel-load of Special Guests from the movie and TV industry coming by to join us (pending schedule conflicts – you know how Hollywood can be!) They include:

- **Floyd Norman** – Animation story-man and comic strip writer; he's worked for everyone from Disney to Hanna Barbera to Pixar, and worked on everything from *The Jungle Book* to *Monsters, Inc.* and *Finding Nemo*!

- **Kevin Michael Richardson** – Voice actor in such films as *Lilo & Stitch*, *The Country Bears*, and *The Wild Thornberrys Movie!*
- **Jynn Magon** – Writer and Producer (*Tale Spin*, *A Goofy Movie*, *Gummi Bears*) and Guest of Honor at ConFurence 12!
- **Charles Zembillas** – The designer of the main characters for *Crash Bandicoot*, *Spyro the Dragon*, and *Jak & Daxter*. These days he runs The Animation Academy in Burbank!
- **George Krstic, Jody Schaeffer, and Chris Prynoski** – DJ's for the Fur Suit Dance. But you might well know them as the creators of the animated series *Low Brow* and *Downtown* for MTV and Cartoon Network!
- A final, special, **Secret Guest**. Oh, we wish we could tell you, but his contract says no. We can tell you that he's a director of animation, and his last feature film is nominated for an Ursula Major award. How's that?

PLUS more famous furry folks like **Paul Kidd**, **Milton Knight**, **Mike Kazeleh**, **Jim Groat**, **Roz Gibson**, and many more! Plus the Ursula Major Awards Presentation, the Cabaret Fur le Dance, a Charity Casino, the Artists' Jam, the Fur Suit Presentation, Whose Lion Is It Anyway?, and so much more. Trust us, you want to be there!

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